The article “Strategies for Teaching English Language Learners” is written by a veteran teacher who focused on English language development. Andrea J. Spillett taught this approach for three years and found it very helpful for English language learners. The English Language Development is a systematic approach to use instructional strategies to promote acquisition of the English language. This type of approach supports Dr. Stephen Krashen, an expert on language acquisition, views on the best strategy to learn a second language is through total immersion. This approach believes that naturally interacting students into a classroom into an English speaking language will help Ells. The main focus on this development is to focus on the student’s fluency and learning with an environment with English speakers. Language acquisition is most successful when comprehensible input and low affective filters are included. Comprehensible input is when teachers make messages more understandable and meaningful for students in a variety of ways. A low affective filter is having an environment where students feel comfortable and the students are not pressured to learn everything at one time. A teacher can create this environment by stressing high frequency vocabulary words, stress participatory learning, use visuals to reinforce spoken or written words, teachers need to maintain a low anxiety level and be enthusiastic as well as adjust their way of speaking by speaking slowly, repeat words, and using shorter sentences and fewer pronouns. English language development is taught through different profiency levels and focuses on four skill areas that include function, form, fluency, and vocabulary.

This article has made me realize how the English Language Development approach can be put into practice in classrooms and help English language learners. It’s important that as teachers we create a classroom environment where every student whether they are fluent English speakers or not feel comfortable in and ready to learn. The suggestions in the article give teachers an opportunity to include these different techniques into their classroom to help Ells with their natural acquisition. It was interesting to read about how this learning approach has different levels of profiency and it’s important for teachers to understand that all students will progress at different rates, so teachers have to be able to accommodate to every child whether they are in a beginning level or at an advanced level. The article mentioned how it takes four to seven years for a child to master advanced levels of fluency, so it’s our duty as teachers to influence our Ells in an environment where they are able to learn and acquire the English language. This learning approach I believe will be beneficial for Ells because this approach focuses on immersing non English speakers with fluent English speakers in order to help with their acquisition. I can honestly say that immersing English language learners into an English only classroom will help them acquire the English language because that’s how I learned English. I was put in an English only class where in a matter of a school year I was able to read and write in the English language. All through my early school years I was put in bilingual classes where it was more Spanish speaking than English, so my reading and writing skills in English were not good at all until I was put in an English only classroom. I believe that every child learns differently that why it’s important that as teacher we use different approaches to fit the needs of the students.